

Oct. 27 / Administration of George Bush, 1992

Note: S. 2044, approved October 26, was assigned Public Law No. 102-524. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 27.

Statement on Signing Legislation Establishing the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site

October 26, 1992

Today I am signing into law S. 2890, a bill to establish the *Brown v. Board of Education* National Historic Site in Topeka, Kansas, redesignate the Fort Jefferson National Monument as the Dry Tortugas National Park, and provide for studies of the New River in West Virginia and Boston Harbor Islands in Massachusetts.

Although I have signed S. 2890, I will withhold my approval of H.R. 5021, the “New River Wild and Scenic Study Act of 1992,” and H.R. 5061, a bill concerning

the “Dry Tortugas National Park,” because S. 2890 contains the identical provisions of both H.R. 5021 and H.R. 5061.

GEORGE BUSH

The White House,
October 26, 1992.

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Statement on Signing the President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992

October 26, 1992

Today I am signing into law S. 3006, the “President John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Collection Act of 1992.” This legislation provides for the review and, wherever possible, the release of records about the assassination of President Kennedy that have not yet been made public. I fully support the goals of this legislation.

In the minds of many Americans, questions about President Kennedy’s assassination remain unresolved. Although the Government already has released many thousands of documents, the existence of additional, undisclosed documents has led to speculation that these materials might shed important new light on the assassination. Because of legitimate historical interest in this tragic event, all documents about the assassination should now be disclosed, except where the strongest possible reasons counsel otherwise.

While I am pleased that this legislation avoids the chief constitutional problems

raised by earlier versions of the bill considered by the Congress, it still raises several constitutional questions. First, S. 3006 sets forth the grounds on which the release of documents may be postponed, but this list does not contemplate nondisclosure of executive branch deliberations or law enforcement information of the executive branch (including the entities listed in sections 3(2) (G) through (K)), and it provides only a narrow basis for nondisclosure of national security information. My authority to protect these categories of information comes from the Constitution and cannot be limited by statute. Although only the most extraordinary circumstances would require postponement of the disclosure of documents for reasons other than those recognized in the bill, I cannot abdicate my constitutional responsibility to take such action when necessary. The same applies to the provision purporting to give certain con-